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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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,	Application No.	Applicant(s)		
	10/623,166	CASTLE, DANIEL C.		
Office Action Summary	Examiner	. Art Unit		
	Lawrence E. Wills	2625		
The MAILING DATE of this communication a Period for Reply	ppears on the cover sheet wit	h the correspondence address		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REP WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory perior - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by state Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the main earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	DATE OF THIS COMMUNIC 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a re od will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONT ute, cause the application to become ABA	ATION. ply be timely filed THS from the mailing date of this communication. ANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).		
Status				
1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7//1 2a)□ This action is FINAL. 2b)⊠ Th 3)□ Since this application is in condition for allow closed in accordance with the practice under	nis action is non-final. vance except for formal matte			
Disposition of Claims				
4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrest is/are allowed. 5) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and	rawn from consideration.			
Application Papers				
9) The specification is objected to by the Examination 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) and an applicant may not request that any objection to the Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction. 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the including the correction.	ccepted or b) objected to be ne drawing(s) be held in abeyand ection is required if the drawing(s	ce. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119				
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 				
Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		ummary (PTO-413) /Mail Date		
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/03; 12/13/04.	_	formal Patent Application		

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the initial Office Action based on the application filed on July 18, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on December 14, 2004 was filed after the mailing date of the application on July 18, 2003. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- 4. <u>Claims 1-4, 6-8,19-20,22-23</u> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kane (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,014).

With regard to claim 1, Kane teaches a photocopier 10 comprising: an integrated imaging device 20 and an integrated output device 40; (See column 3, line 63-66, the photocopy machine capable of storing and transmitting image data comprises a housing that contains a

storage means).

scanning means, various types of storage means, a printing means;) at least one output port 52; (See column 4, line 31-34, this transmitting means includes an output port for permitting connection of the outside sources to the photocopy machine capable of storing and transmitting image data;) and an image data switching unit 60 (See column 4, line 45-49, the invention also includes a selection means. The selection means is designed for allowing a user to selectively

activate the various transmission means, the printing means, the scanning means, and the various

With regard to claim 2, Kane teaches a photocopier where the integrated imaging device comprises a scanner 20 configured to obtain the image by optically scanning an object (See column 4, line 3, The scanning means is designed for scanning an image on a document. Preferably, the scanning means includes a scanning surface where documents are placed on so that the scanning means 20 can scan the images on the document).

With regard to claim 3, Kane teaches a photocopier where at least one output port 52 is configured to electrically couple to at least one external output device (See column 4, line 31-34, this transmitting means includes an output port for permitting connection of the outside sources to the photocopy machine capable of storing and transmitting image data).

With regard to claim 4, Kane teaches a photocopier where the integrated output device and at least one external output device are each selected from a group comprising a copier output system, a laser printer, an inkjet printer and a dot matrix printer (See column 4, line 25-

28, The transmitting means is designed to permit transmission of an image scanned by the

scanning means to an outside source. The outside sources can be either a printer or a

computer).

With regard to claim 6, Kane teaches a photocopier comprising a controller electrically

coupled to the integrated imaging device, the integrated output device and the image data

switching unit, where the controller is configured to convert the first signal to the second signal

and to selectively switch the image data switching unit. (Figure 5 shows a controller and CPU

connected, through an I/O logic device, to the scanning apparatus, an ink-jet or laser printer

mechanism, and a memory controller).

With regard to claim 7, Kane also teaches a photocopier where the controller comprises

a processor and a memory device. (Figure 5 shows a memory controller connected, through an

I/O logic device, to the CPU).

With regard to claim 8, Kane teaches a photocopier where the controller is further

configured to: electrically couple to a peripheral device; selectively transmit the first signal and

the second signal to the peripheral device; and selectively receive the first signal and the second

signal from the peripheral device. (Figure 5 shows a floppy disk drive, a hard disk drive, an

Optical ROM device, a fax modem chipset, and an universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter

for connection with a remote computer.)

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With regard to claim 19, Kane teaches an image processing system controlled by a host device 10 including: an output port 52, a first means for printing 40(See column 3, line 63-66, the photocopy machine capable of storing and transmitting image data comprises a housing that contains a scanning means, various types of storage means, a printing means;), a switching means 60, (See column 4, line 45-49, the invention also includes a selection means. The selection means is designed for allowing a user to selectively activate the various transmission means, the printing means, the scanning means, and the various storage means), and a second means for printing that is electrically attachable to the output port of the host device. (See column 4, line 31-34, this transmitting means includes an output port for permitting connection of the outside sources to the photocopy machine capable of storing and transmitting image data;)

With regard to claim 20, Kane teaches an image processing system where the host device further comprises an imaging means for providing a first electrical signal, wherein the first electrical signal is representative of an image. (See column 4, line 3-5, The scanning means is designed for scanning an image on a document. Preferably, the scanning means includes a scanning surface where documents are placed on so that the scanning means 20 can scan the images on the document).

With regard to claim 22, Kane teaches an image processing system where the host device further comprises an interface means for entering parameters used to control the switching means. (See column 4, line 45-49, the invention also includes a selection means. The

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selection means is designed for allowing a user to selectively activate the various transmission means, the printing means, the scanning means, and the various storage means).

With regard to claim 23, Kane teaches an image processing system further comprising a peripheral means for transferring image data to and from the host device. (Figure 5 shows a floppy disk drive, a hard disk drive, an Optical ROM device, a fax modem chipset, and an universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter for connection with a remote computer.)

5. <u>Claims 9-14, 16-18, and 24-25</u> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshiura et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,854,693).

With regard to claim 9, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document using an image processing system with an integrated imaging device, an integrated output device and at least one external output device. (See column 3, line 19-30, In order to achieve the above object, an image forming system is characterized by including: a plurality of image forming apparatuses; and a transmission apparatus for interconnecting the plurality of image forming apparatuses to allow them to communicate each other by transmitting and receiving image data, wherein at least one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses serves as the first image forming apparatus which includes: an image recording section for forming a visible image based on the image data; an input section for inputting an instruction with regard to the image

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processing function to be performed by the first image forming apparatus) The method taught in Yoshiura teaches:

- Determining an output path based one output characteristic, (See column 4, line 43-50, In this case, by operating the input section by the operator, an instruction of requesting a predetermined image processing function to be applied to the image data is inputted through the input section. Then, the transmission-side control section selects an image forming apparatus, which can perform the requested image processing function based on the function data.)
 Producing a first signal corresponding to an image of the document; (See column 9, line 54-67, The CCD 44 is an element which converts an image formed by reflected light into an
- 67, The CCD 44 is an element which converts an image formed by reflected light into an electric image signal. The scanner section 31 reads the original image to convert the same into image data by the link-up operation of the RADF 36 and the scanner unit 40. To be more specific, while the RADF 36 steadily feeds documents onto the document platen 35, the scanner unit 40 reads the original image on each document sheet by moving back and forth along the bottom surface of the document platen 35. The original image read by the scanning unit 40 is set to an image processing section (to be described layer) as image information (image data). Then, a predetermined image processing is applied to the image data by the image processing section.)
- 3. Converting the first signal to a second signal; and (See column 4, line 6-10, In the processing section of the second image forming apparatus which received a request for processing the image processing function, the image processing function is applied to the image data. Then, the processed image data are returned to the first image forming apparatus of the requesting end through the transmission apparatus. In the first image forming apparatus which received the

processed image data, the processed image data of a plurality of pages are aligned into a proper page order, thereby outputting the image data as a visible image by the image recording section.)

4. Directing the second signal to the output path. (See column 4, line 51-61, Furthermore, the transmission-side control section transfers the image data respectively to the processing section of the selected first image forming apparatus and the second image forming apparatus through the transmission apparatus. In the second image forming apparatus, which receives the request, the requested image processing function is applied to the image data by the processing section. The processed image data are returned to the first image forming apparatus of the requesting end through the transmission apparatus by the processing side control section of the second image forming apparatus.)

With regard to claim 10, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document using an image processing system wherein determining the output path comprises selecting the at least one output characteristic and comparing the at least one output characteristic to the functionality of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device. (See column 20, line 20-33), On the other hand, when the operator presses the system selection key 122a on the display screen, the PCU 74 determines that the external machine performs the sharpness function (S4). Then, the PCU 74 selects the digital copying machines 92 and 93 as the ones having the sharpness function within the system. Also, the screen on the liquid crystal display apparatus 1 shifts to the sharpness function setting screen of FIG. 13(c). Next, the operator inputs the desired highlighting level in sharpness using a sharpness input key 123a on the

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display screen. Upon completing the setting, the setting end key 123b is pressed upon which the PCU 74 of the digital copying machine 91 applies the function control data for each image to the image data.)

With regard to claim 11, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document further comprising defining the output path to include the integrated output device and the external output device such that the output path provides the output characteristic. (See column 20, line 33-35, Next, the PCU 74 transmits the processed image data to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 after scrambling the image data (S6).)

With regard to claim 12, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document further comprising configuring the integrated imaging device and the at least one of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device included in the output path to provide the at least one output characteristic. (See column 20, line 20-33, On the other hand, when the operator presses the system selection key 122a on the display screen, the PCU 74 determines that the external machine performs the sharpness function (S4). Then, the PCU 74 selects the digital copying machines 92 and 93 as the ones having the sharpness function within the system. Also, the screen on the liquid crystal display apparatus 1 shifts to the sharpness function setting screen of FIG. 13(c). Next, the operator inputs the desired highlighting level in sharpness using a sharpness input key 123a on the display screen. Upon completing the setting, the setting end key 123b is pressed upon which the PCU 74 of the digital copying machine 91 applies the function control data for each image to the image data.)

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With regard to claim 13, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document wherein selecting the at least one output characteristic comprises specifying a characteristic selected from the group comprising copying speed, output media size, output media weight, output media color, output media material, output font, output color, output color resolution, copying resolution, and printing resolution. (See column 19, line 66-column 20 line 18 Next, the PCU 74 of the digital copying machine 91 determines whether nor not the sharpness function is provided (S2). As set forth in Table 2 above, the digital copying machine 91 does not have the sharpness function. Thus, the checking result is negative in S2. Accordingly, a message "THIS MACHINE HAS NO SHARPNESS FUNCTION" is displayed in the basic screen of the liquid crystal display apparatus 1 as shown in FIG. 13(b), and directs the operator to select whether the image data should be processed by an external machine (for example digital copying machines 92 and/or 93) in the system or not (S3). As described, since the digital copying machine 91 does not have the sharpness function, if the operator wishes to execute the sharpness function, he has to request other machines to carry out the sharpness function. However, if the operator does not wish so, he presses a cancel key 122b, upon which the CPU 74 determines that the operator does not wish to request the other machines to carry out the sharpness function (S4). Then, the set mode is cancelled (S5).) Sharpness would be considered a copying and printing resolution characteristic.

With regard to claim 14, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document, wherein producing the first signal comprises optically scanning the document with the integrated imaging

device to produce an image of the document then converting the image to a digital signal. (See column 9, line 54-67 The CCD 44 is an element which converts an image formed by reflected light into an electric image signal. The scanner section 31 reads the original image to convert the same into image data by the link-up operation of the RADF 36 and the scanner unit 40. To be more specific, while the RADF 36 steadily feeds documents onto the document platen 35, the scanner unit 40 reads the original image on each document sheet by moving back and forth along the bottom surface of the document platen 35. The original image read by the scanning unit 40 is set to an image processing section (to be described layer) as image information (image data). Then, a predetermined image processing is applied to the image data by the image processing section.)

With regard to claim 16, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document wherein directing the second signal to the output path comprises routing the second signal to at least one of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device. (See column 20, line 33-46, Next, the PCU 74 transmits the processed image data to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 after scrambling the image data (S6). The above image data are transmitted from the main memory 73a of FIG. 4 to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 through an image data communication unit 81 and a modem (not shown). The image data are transmitted together with the function control data composed of a processing code indicating the requested function, namely, the sharpness function herein. As shown in FIG. 11, the transmitted image data are distributed to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 through the interface 91a, communication line 99, and interface 92a and 93a.)

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With regard to claim 17, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document further comprising printing a portion of the second signal with the at least one of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device. (See column 20, line 33-46, Next, the PCU 74 transmits the processed image data to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 after scrambling the image data (S6). The above image data are transmitted from the main memory 73a of FIG. 4 to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 through an image data communication unit 81 and a modem (not shown). The image data are transmitted together with the function control data composed of a processing code indicating the requested function, namely, the sharpness function herein. As shown in FIG. 11, the transmitted image data are distributed to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 through the interface 91a, communication line 99, and interface 92a and 93a.)

With regard to claim 18, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document wherein directing the second signal to the output path comprises routing the second signal to a peripheral device. (See column 20, line 33-46, Next, the PCU 74 transmits the processed image data to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 after scrambling the image data (S6). The above image data are transmitted from the main memory 73a of FIG. 4 to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 through an image data communication unit 81 and a modem (not shown). The image data are transmitted together with the function control data composed of a processing code indicating the requested function, namely, the sharpness function herein. As shown in FIG. 11, the transmitted

image data are distributed to the digital copying machines 92 and 93 through the interface 91a, communication line 99, and interface 92a and 93a.)

With regard to claim 24, Yoshiura teaches a method for selecting at least one output characteristic for a copy job; comparing the functionality of a plurality of output paths to the selected at least one output characteristic; and directing at least a portion of the copy job output to an external output device. (See explanation of rejection in claim 9 above) Computer readable media including computer executable instructions for performing this method would also read on this claim.

With regard to claim 25, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document wherein selecting the at least one output characteristic comprises specifying a characteristic selected from the group comprising copying speed, output media size, output media weight, output media color, output media material, output font, output color, output color resolution, copying resolution, and printing resolution. Computer readable media including computer executable instructions for performing this method would also read on this claim. (See claim 13, in addition see column 28, line 4-13 Namely, the PCU 74 of the digital copying machine 92 determines digital copying machine(s) to which the image processing is requested (including the designated digital copying machine 92) in consideration of various factors such as the available memory capacity, version of the image processing software and the processing speed of the image data processing section 71, etc. (S40). Namely, the digital copying machine(s) which enable the requested image process to be processed efficiently in a short period time is (are) selected.)

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 7. <u>Claim 5</u> is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Kane (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,014)</u> in view of <u>Yoshiura (U.S. Patent No. 5,854,693)</u>.

With regard to claim 5, Kane teaches a photocopier 10 comprising: an integrated imaging device 20 and an integrated output device 40; (See column 3, line 63-66, the photocopy machine capable of storing and transmitting image data comprises a housing that contains a scanning means, various types of storage means, a printing means;) at least one output port 52; (See column 4, line 31-34, this transmitting means includes an output port for permitting connection of the outside sources to the photocopy machine capable of storing and transmitting image data;) and an image data switching unit 60 (See column 4, line 45, the invention also includes a selection means. The selection means is designed for allowing a user to selectively activate the various transmission means, the printing means, the scanning means, and the various storage means). In addition, Kane teaches a keypad (unnumbered) and LCD display (unnumbered) that would accommodate user inputs. (Figure 5 shows LCD Display and Keypad)

Kane does not teach expressly an interface to select an output characteristic. However,
Yoshiura teaches a photocopier with a user interface configured to select at least one output
characteristic. (See Yoshiura column 12, line 66-column 13, line 13, The control substrate unit 77
is an input section including a CPU, through which the operator sets functions such as a copying
mode, etc., and enters a command in the digital copying machine 30.)

At the time when the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the keypad and LCD display, taught in Kane, to interface with the copier and select output characteristics, taught in Yoshiura.

The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the user to adjust the output characteristics of a scanned document at the machine. Thus, allowing the user to make the most of and have full control the machines capabilities.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yoshiura with Kane to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

8. <u>Claim 15</u> is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Yoshiura (U.S.</u>

Patent No. 5,854,693) in view of <u>Kato (U.S. Patent No. 71801,623)</u>.

With regard to claim 15, Yoshiura teaches a method for copying a document using an image processing system with an integrated imaging device, an integrated output device and at least one external output device. (See column 3, line 19-30, In order to achieve the above object, an image forming system is characterized by including: a plurality of image forming apparatuses; and a transmission apparatus for interconnecting the plurality of image forming apparatuses to allow them to communicate each other by transmitting and receiving image data,

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wherein at least one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses serves as the first image forming apparatus which includes: an image recording section for forming a visible image based on the image data; an input section for inputting an instruction with regard to the image processing function to be performed by the first image forming apparatus.) The method taught in Yoshiura teaches:

- 1. Determining an output path based one output characteristic, (See Yoshiura column 4, line 43-50)
- 2. Producing a first signal corresponding to an image of the document; (See Yoshiura column 9, line 54-67)
- 3. Converting the first signal to a second signal; and (See Yoshiura column 4, line 6-10)
- 4. Directing the second signal to the output path. (See Yoshiura column 4, line 51-61.)

Yoshiura does not teach using print driver software to convert a first signal to a second signal so the second signal is compatible with the selected output device. However, Kato teaches a method for copying a document wherein converting the first signal to the second signal comprises processing the first signal using printer driver software compatible with the integrated output device and at least one external output device. (See column 4, line18-33, To print created application data, the application 1010 transmits an output command (called a GDI function) which is determined in advance for the output module of the OS providing the interface and has an OS-dependent format. The output module, which has received the output command, converts the command into a format processible by an output device such as a printer, and outputs the converted drawing command (called a DDI function). Since the format processible by the output device changes depending on the type of device, the manufacturer,

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and the model, a device driver is provided for each device. The OS converts a command by using the device driver, generates print data, and combines print data by JL to generate a print job. When the OS is Microsoft Windows, the output module is a GDI module.)

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use print driver software, taught in Kato, to convert a first signal to a second signal, taught in Yoshiura.

The motivation for doing so would have been to make sure that the converted second signal would be compatible with the destination printer or copier. The format of the second signal must correspond to the format "processible" by the output device selected. (Kato column 4, line 25-28)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kato with Yoshiura to obtain the invention as specified in claim 15.

9. <u>Claim 21</u> is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Kane (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,014)</u> in view of <u>Kato (U.S. Patent No. 71801,623)</u>.

With regard to claim 21, Kane teaches an image processing system controlled by a host device 10 including: an output port 52, a first means for printing 40 (See Kane column 3, line 63-66), a switching means 60, (See Kane column 4, line 45), and a second means for printing that is electrically attachable to the output port of the host device. (See Kane column 4, line 31-34). In addition, Kane teaches an image processing system where the host device further comprises an imaging means for providing a first electrical signal, wherein the first electrical signal is representative of an image. (See Kane column 4, line 3-5)

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Kane does not teach the conversion of a first electrical signal to another electrical signal. However, Kato teaches a means for converting a first electrical signal into a second electrical signal configured to be processed by the first or second means for printing. (See Kato column 4, line18-33)

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to convert a first electrical signal representing an image, taught in Kane, into a second electrical signal using print driver software, taught in Kato.

The motivation for doing so would have been to make sure that the converted second signal would compatible with the destination printer or copier. The format of the second signal must correspond to the format "processible" by the output device selected. (Kato column 4, line 25-28)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kato with Kane to obtain the invention as specified in claim 21.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence E. Wills whose telephone number is 571-270-3145. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Eisen can be reached on 571-272-7687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LEW April 23, 2007

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